

From: erica burdon <ericaaburdon@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:52 PM

To: Economic Development

Cc: Ashley Clark; JoAnne Mulligan

Subject: Summer St Development - Omni

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you today as a resident and Representative for Town Meeting member of South Walpole in regard to the Omni Development's 40b proposal for the Cedar Edge/Cedar Crossing development of 300 new units of housing at 55 Summer Street in South Walpole. My husband and I have been living in South Walpole for over 4 years with our 2 young children. We are heavily involved in volunteering in Walpole and adore our community. I have many concerns with the proposed Omni Development project and have addressed my concerns below.

My first concern is the location. My home is less than 1 mile from Gillette Stadium. We also live very close to Boyden Elementary School where my daughters attend. Being so close to the Schools is wonderful because we are able to walk. The intersection (Water St/Washington St ext) that we must cross everyday is already a high traffic area with cars speeding down the street, often screeching to a halt when we are actually still in the crosswalk. To add a massive Development within this same area will only add another 300-600 cars to an already highly congested, dangerous intersection. The Kraft high-speed commuter train has recently been added to South Walpole. Some children and families have to cross that track to be able to walk to school. The complex will bring more children who will need to cross the track as well as adults walking to Gillette to take the train into work. Adding that many more cars commuting during school and work hours when there will also be many more walkers, especially children, is dangerous. The proposed entrance to the Development is literally right beside the train track, so when residents leave, they will be forced almost immediately onto the track. As of now, the Developer has stated there would only be one entrance/exit. The traffic build up from cars leaving the Development along with those walking will make matters worse.

My second concern is construction. To build a complex this size will take a lot of time, effort, and construction. The pollution of the construction and the noise is simply too much for our small neighborhood. We already bear the extremely loud horns of the freight train and the Kraft commuter line, several times in the early morning hours, all day, and well into the night. We already experience a massive amount of vehicles from events at Gillette, such as Patriot's Games and summer concerts. Our small neighborhood should not have to take on the stress of this large project.

My third concern is the area in which the Development is being built. It is right next to the old Bird Machine property which years ago was deemed contaminated. The area was apparently cleaned, but there are some reports that I would be happy to send you should you request them, that show the land should probably not be used. Omni is building their complex right next to this land, and while the Developer insists that he has had the land tested and that it is fine, I urge you to question this. I am concerned with what might turn up in the air and soil once construction begins. What will the air we breathe be like during construction and for how long?

My fourth concern is fire safety. South Walpole is already quite far from the fire station. I believe that we may actually be the farthest to get to in an emergency. This complex is only set to have one entrance and exit and also abuts a train track. It won't be easy for the fire department to get there quickly in case of a fire. My house abuts this Development. I would rather not chance a fire in that Development spreading to surrounding streets.

My fifth concern is wildlife and safety. I imagine in digging up 57 acres of woods, the Developer will be displacing hundreds of animals. Does he have a remediation for this? I can't imagine how safe it will be when the animals have no homes and start to make their way onto the public streets or yards where children live and play and walk to school. The old Bird machine property is still deemed unsafe to build on, so I can't imagine how safe it would be for animals to find new homes there.

I have a number of more concerns. The location for a Project this size is far less than ideal, and in fact may be potentially dangerous to both current South Walpole residents and new residents of the complex.

I hope you will take my concerns into consideration and that you will at least help us try to minimize the size and scope of this project to keep all of our South Walpole children and families safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erica Burdon